New CIA Financial Aid

By Richard Harwood
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The Central Intelligence Agency was at the center yesterday of a new furor over its financial infiltration of private organizations here and abroad.

These were the developments:

• The agency, it was learned, attempted in recent days to suppress portions of a Saturday Evening Post article by former CIA official Thomas W. Braden. The article contained details about the CIA's financial support of American labor officials, of a European tour by the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and of the activities of the Paris-based Congress for Cultural Freedom.

• George A. Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, denounced Braden's article as "a damn lie" insofar as it dealt with the channeling of CIA funds to the big labor Federation. Meany said the AFL-CIO had never taken money from the CIA and had never worked with the agency through the Federation's international experts, Jay Lovestone and Irving Brown.

• A trustee of the Boston Symphony, Henry B. Cabot, said the CIA "had nothing to do" with the orchestra's overseas tours. It was supported by State Department funds, he said.

• An editor of the Anglo-American magazine, Encounter, admitted in London for the first time that the publication had received CIA money prior to 1964. Melvin Lasky said Encounter was "an unwitting recipient" of CIA money supplied by the Congress for Cultural Freedom, which Lasky helped to organize in the late 1940s. Another editor of the magazine, British poet Stephen Spender, announced his resignation because of the CIA tie.

• Other sources revealed that CIA money had found its way into PEN, an international organization of poets, playwrights, editors, essayists and novelists. About one half of PEN's budget, it was reported, was contributed as recently as 1965 by Radio Free Europe, a recipient of CIA aid. PEN also received funds through the Farfield Foundation, which in turn obtained money from a CIA conduit, the Sidney and Esther Rabb Foundation.

On its reported brush with Saturday Evening Post officials over the Braden article, the CIA had no comment yes-

Associated Press

George Meany at news conference over CIA activity.

terday. But a spokesman said the agency had not seen the article until it was "in print".

Stewart Alsop, Washington editor for the magazine, said questions about the CIA's efforts to suppress portions of the article would have to be put to Braden, who was unavailable for comment. Alsop said he could not say that the CIA "asked us to withdraw the article. It was already in print."

Braden stated in the article that while serving as a CIA official he personally gave $15,000 in 1950 to Irving Brown of the AFL to "pay off his strong-arm squads in Mediterranean ports, so that American supplies could be unloaded against the opposition of Communist dock workers." He described a $50,000

Furor Erupts

CIA payment to United Auto Workers President Walter Reuther for labor organizations in Germany, and close relationships between CIA and other American labor officials operating in Europe, among them Lovestone and David Dubinksy's International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

Heavy subsidies for the non-Communist French union, Force Ouvriere, were pumped in by the CIA through Lovestone, Brown and ILGWU, Braden said.

Meany, at a press conference yesterday, strongly denied Braden's allegations. Neither the old AFL nor the present AFL-CIO ever received CIA funds, Meany declared. He further denied that Lovestone or Brown had ever had any dealings with the agency or had used any of its money.

The executive commission of the Force Ouvriere also issued a denial yesterday and protested "completely false reports which are obviously aimed at hurting free trade unionism."

Alleged Recipients

Despite Meany's denial, there has been strong circumstantial evidence that CIA money has been used on a broad scale by American labor organizations including the American Newspaper Guild, the Retail Clerks, State, County and Municipal Employees, and the International Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union.

Meany said yesterday that if any CIA money had reached these unions it was without their knowledge and through ostensibly private foundations.

He said he had been asked only once—prior to the AFL-CIO merger—to pass on funds to European unions. The money was to be supplied by a group of New York businessmen headed by Averell Harriman, Meany said. But the offer, he said, was rejected.

Dubinsky, who attended Meany's press conference, also denied any CIA involvement. The ILGWU, he said, used its own funds in Europe, funds obtained "from the poor working man" in America, not from CIA.

Meany announced at the meeting that the AFL-CIO has agreed to put up $27,900 to help the American Newspaper Guild continue its international activities. The Guild, he said, no longer receives funds from foundations identified as CIA conduits.